

Amendment and Response

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Serial No.: 10/009,928

Filed: 11 April 2002

For: SILICONE ADHESIVES, ARTICLES AND METHODS

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following new paragraph at page 1, line 6 (directly below the title), with the following paragraph.

The present application is a U.S. National Stage Application of PCT/US99/09945, filed 5 May 1999.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 21, with the following amended paragraph.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,721,136 (Finney et al.) teaches the use of a multiplayer sheet having a silicone adhesive thereon for use on vessels for biochemical reactions. One layer provides strength and integrity for the film. The second layer is a thick, in the range of about 2 mils. To about 40 mils (50 μm to 1016 μm), deformable material with a very low tack surface. The elastic nature of the second layer results in good seal when clamped down during thermal cycling. The rubbery materials also provide a very low level of adhesion. The peel force of the sheet from a Polypropylene surface is reported to be in the range of 1.1 ~~0.11~~ N/dm to 5 ~~0.5~~ N/dm (0.1 oz/in to 4.5 oz/in). Although a low tack adhesive is desirable to prevent the tape from sticking to rubber gloves commonly used in biological research, when applied to a microplate, for example, low adhesion of thick, elastic adhesive tapes is likely to cause a high evaporation rate and increase the incidence of cross-contamination during storage and handling.